

FARM NOTES.

Farm Ratings.

ONE of the first things a farmer's wife should learn, if she has not already learned it as a farmer's daughter, is to drive and harness a horse.

STRAWBERRIES are much more prolific when four or five different varieties are planted together, although each variety may be a perfect one, than if but one perfect variety were planted alone.

The opinion has generally prevailed that a little bran mixed with meal would produce more pork than clear meal, but in some experiments lately tried it was found that clear meal made more pork than a mixture of bran and meal.

PROF. BREWER, of the Sheffield Scientific School, New Haven, says: "On account of the value of our straw and of the stalks of our corn for feeding, it is found that an acre of corn, wheat or other grain pays as large a profit here as in the West, and that the labor of each man is as well or better paid."

The Flemish farmer scrupulously collects every atom of sewage from the towns; he guards his manure like a treasure, puts a roof over it to prevent rain and sunshine from spoiling it; he also gathers mud from rivers and canals and the excretions from animals along the highways, for conversion into phosphates.

The value of all manufactured fertilizers depends upon their solubility, and these manures should all be appropriated by the growing crops. To expect any such fertilizing matter to remain in the ground for another year is to presume that the fertilizers are not properly manufactured. Bone dust, however, will remain in the soil several years.

When corn on the ear is fed to horses they masticate it much more slowly than if the corn was shelled. As a consequence that on the ear is better digested. A horse requires more time to eat corn in the ear than if fed either meal or shelled corn. If the horse cannot have time to masticate a full feed of unshelled corn, then it is best to feed something else.

The irregular feeding of sheep is sure to show in the wool. Every time the sheep falls off in condition, there will be a weak place in the fiber, which wool-buyers will not fail to notice, and for which the seller will lose from 5 to 6 cents per pound. Regular feeding of a half pint of grain per day will keep the sheep in good condition, with good straw or fodder.

THE farmers of New Jersey use goats to protect their sheep from dogs. It is said that two goats can drive a dozen dogs, and are therefore all that is necessary to protect a large flock of sheep. As soon as the dog enters the field at night, the goats attack him, and "do him up" with neatness and dispatch, while the sheep form in line behind and seem to enjoy the fun.

SOMEbody lays down the rule that every farmer should be as follows: "Not only an excellent tiller of the soil, but also an excellent mechanic, a fair harnessmaker, a mender of shoes, a tolerable carpenter, a pretty good blacksmith or machinist, and also a wide-awake, thorough judge and breeder of stock, knowing and caring for their ailments—not only horses and cattle, but sheep, hogs, poultry or anything that money can be made out of. With all this, he should be a civil engineer, acquainted with levels and hydraulics and repairs of pumps, and if, in addition to these requirements, he understands laying stone and brick and putting on plastering, as well as mixing and applying paints, he will find plenty to do, to say nothing of what he ought to know about grain and milling it."

A GARDEN to be profitable, says the Chicago Times, should be highly manured. High manuring is essential to speedy growth and large crops. The more rapid the growth of vegetables the more tender they are. Land on which much labor is spent in cultivation should be made by the judicious employment of fertilizers to produce very large crops. Market gardeners in the vicinity of large cities ordinarily apply at least fifty cords of stable manure every year to the ground they occupy, and many use in addition wood ashes and a considerable amount of commercial fertilizers. The crops they raise would astonish most farmers who manure a garden spot only as they do a field intended for corn or small grain. Many farmers attempt to raise vegetables on land occupied in part by fruit trees, grape vines and bushes. The roots of these take most of the nutriment from the soil, while their branches cast a dense shade. Garden vegetables require all the soil for their own use. Another mistake in gardening consists in surrounding the spot with a fence, so that plowing is rendered difficult, as well as the work of cultivation by teams. A garden to be easily worked should be located where no fences are required to protect it from animals and fowls. By having no fence about it the soil can be plowed without difficulty, and most of the work of cultivating may be done by horses. Most vegetables can be planted in drills running the entire length of the lot, and the soil between them worked by means

of a cultivator. Another mistake in gardening consists in planting all kinds of seeds at nearly the same time without regard to their natural habits or time of maturity. Farmers know that field crops should be planted at different times, but they persist in planting onions and Lima beans on the same day.

AT WHAT HOUR OF THE DAY A LAW TAKES EFFECT.

The Supreme Court of the United States has rendered an elaborate opinion on a question as important as it is curious. On the 2d of July, 1870, the town of Louisville, Ill., voted to issue certain railroad bonds, but on the same day a constitutional amendment prohibiting towns from issuing such bonds was carried by a popular vote and took effect immediately. The question as to the validity of the bonds went to the Federal Supreme Court.

It has been held in many cases that the law does not recognize fractions or divisions of a day, and hence that a Legislative or Congressional act or a constitutional amendment goes into effect on the morning of the day on which it was passed or adopted, and consequently embraces the entire day. Thus the United States Supreme Court decided that President Johnson's proclamation of June 13, 1865, removing all restrictions on internal, domestic and coastwise trade, took effect at the beginning of the day and applied to all the transactions of the day. According to this principle the Louisville bonds would have been invalidated by the popular ratification of the constitutional amendment on the same day the bond vote was taken.

But there are exceptions to this general rule. "It is true," says the Supreme Court, "that for many purposes the law knows no division of a day, but whenever it becomes important to the ends of justice or in order to decide upon conflicting interests the law will look into fractions of a day as readily as into the fractions of any other unit of time." If necessary the courts will inquire at what hour of the day an act was signed or a proclamation issued by the chief executive, and hold that it had no effect previous to that hour. Applying this principle to the Illinois case the Supreme Court rules that the constitutional amendment was not adopted until the polls were closed, and finds that before that hour the entire vote on the bonds was cast. The bonds were accordingly held valid.—Exchange.

BONAPARTE PROCLAIMED EMPEROR.

When the Senators had arrived, Bonaparte entered the Grand Cabinet, and seated in the center of a circle composed of the Counsellors of State and the Generals; behind him stood the Ministers, among whom Consul Lebrun took his place. Cambaceres, at the head of the Senate, pronounced a discourse in which the words "Sire" and "Imperial Majesty" were several times repeated. His speech concluded with these words: "The Senate proclaims Napoleon Bonaparte at the present moment Emperor of the French." A cry of "Vive l'Empereur!" arose in the Assembly and some applause, but it was neither loud nor hearty. The Emperor replied in a firm and clear voice. He appeared the least embarrassed of any. Among those present, there was evident awkwardness, which he alone did not share. After his reply, addressed to all present in general, he went up to Cambaceres, to whom he spoke, as it seemed to me, with much affection; but I could not hear what he said. Then he addressed a few words to Portalis and several other Counsellors of State in succession. Some answered according to the new etiquette, using the words "Sire" and "Majesty," and Portalis was one of these. Others became confused between the old and the new formulas, beginning their phrases with "Citizen First Consul" and then stumbling over those they had forgotten, and ending with "Sire" and "Majesty." The whole ceremony did not last half an hour. The Emperor brought it to a close by withdrawing into his private room.

OPEN TO A HORSE-TRADE.

A Michigander who was traveling through Indiana with a horse and buggy drove up to a farm-house one day with his patent washing machine and discovered that he had happened on a funeral. Under such circumstances he deemed it best to beat a retreat, but while unhitching his horse one of the men came out and inquired:

"Want anything, stranger?"

"Well, no; I understand they are holding a funeral here."

"Y-es, sort of a funeral. Got anything to sell?"

"I have a patent washing machine, but under the circumstances I don't feel like—"

"Never mind the circumstances," interrupted the man. "Jim's lost his wife, of course, but he's got all arrangements made to marry his hired girl two weeks from to-night, and if you've got anything there you want to throw in on a horse-trade he won't let no funeral interfere with business. It's airy in the day yet, and we do our burying around here any time before dark!"—Free Press.

THE AUTHOR OF "A FOOL'S ERRAND" ON TOO-TOOTISM.

I am not entirely given over to too-tootism. I always associate an esthetic with laziness, and a lazy man doesn't know what rest means. I am glad I am away from the ladies, but really I don't admire a Queen Anne chair. I know it is high art, but just think of one hundred and odd pounds of muscular Christianity resting in a spindle-shanked Queen Anne chair. Then again I can't say I am in love with those new chandeliers made in imitation of a tallow-dip, with a gutter of smut running down the sides. Then there are those narrow-necked jars in a Japanese cabinet, so frail that one is afraid of enjoying a hearty laugh for fear of breaking up \$100 worth of high art. Do you know I enjoy seeing a man lying with his feet on the sofa? I know it's rough on the sofa, but it's the best thing for the man. I often wonder when I get into a parlor filled with all the jim-cracks of estheticism, what it was all for. I like a parlor where the children can turn somersaults without fear of what is coming after. High art! Somebody told me that the cover of Scribner's Monthly was a specimen of it. I remarked I couldn't make out just which way the snake was going. He was inclined to be offended, but all I could imagine of the design was a reminder of a snake crawling backward or forward, or, perhaps, a dish of vermicelli soup on a piece of brown paper.

The boy that quits his public school or his college ought to be induced, or flogged, if need be, to prevent him from entering at once upon a business life. Let him spend his time on a farm. I don't know how it is, but in every place I've been true American labor was dying out. I went into a prayer meeting in Maine the other day (they go to prayer meeting in Maine yet), and they were singing: "There Is Rest for the Weary," and, American-like, they have placed that haven of rest "beyond the Jordan." Nations have passed off the face of the earth by disregarding lesser laws than that of American restlessness.—Judge Tourgee's Lecture on Rest.

SHOWERS OF FISHES IN RAIN.

During the rains of 1864, I was residing at Arrah, in a large house with a flat roof, and during a heavy shower the cry was raised by my servants that fish were falling from heaven. I rushed out and found the compound (courtyard) strewn with small dead fish, from two to three inches in length; while from the roof two or three bucketfuls were procured. Whence came the fish? Undoubtedly from the sky; but how they got there I am not prepared to state, unless they may have been carried into the air from their native element by a water-spout. Arrah is situated in the corner where the Sone enters the Ganges, and is about seven miles from either river—the only possible source of the fish. The second fall occurred four years after at Patna, which is about one or two miles from the Ganges, and also during the rains. On starting on my rounds one morning, I drove over a bridge, crossing a then-dry water-course. During my absence a heavy rain fell, and on my returning home I found the water-course full and a crowd of natives shoveling out quantities of the same small fish, all dead. Another curious fact relating to fishes. On one occasion, while stationed at Arrah, I came across a specimen of the climbing perch (*Anabas scandens*) struggling along the road at least half a mile from the Sone, to which I had it transferred, alive and vigorous. It may have embarked on that strange journey to spawn leaving its eggs in a road-side ditch; but then a difficulty arises in its being alone.—Chambers' Journal.

DEATH BY TELEGRAPH.

The discussion of electric-light dangers springs up or breaks out often and in numerous places. A scientist and expert was asked if a man's life was in danger when his body was exposed to the current of electricity necessary to feed the electric light. His reply was that no man knew the extent of the danger, or rather the extent of the injury that might be incurred. If a man should place his hands upon the wire before the generator started and keep them there until the machine stopped, as he might be obliged to whether he wanted to or not, since the muscles would contract very strongly—if he did this, it is believed that he would be comparatively safe; but if his hands were removed, if they could be, or if the wire should break while the generator was in operation, he would receive an induction spark that might kill him and might not. That would depend on what part was affected and upon the man's physical condition. It might paralyze the heart, it might cause strangulation, and in any case would be likely to cause more or less derangement of the nervous system. But the positive or definite result will not be known, cannot be known, except by actual experience. Some light may be thrown upon it by experiments on lower animals. Even then man may not be satisfied, and proceed to test and perhaps kill himself. Then we shall know, and possibly not till then.—Providence Journal.

JEWS IN RUSSIA.

Peter the Great was the first to admit Jews into Russia. They emigrated to that country in large numbers, and at first were treated fairly. Christian prejudice was soon aroused, and in 1743 the Empress Elizabeth expelled 35,000. They were readmitted by the Empress Catherine. Until the time of the Emperor Alexander I., in whom they found a friend, they were held in the most abject condition, and denied all the more important privileges of citizens. Alexander granted them full liberty of trade and commerce. But the decrees of Alexander were canceled by his successor, Nicholas, and since that time, in spite of the scheme of 1835, which contemplated the improvement of their condition, and the extension of their liberties, and occasional and intermittent favors of a subsequent date, the Jews have had a hard fate in Russia. In Poland they found a home at a much earlier date. As early as the fourteenth century they were in high favor at court, a Jewish maiden of great beauty having won the affections of Casimir the Great, and for many years the whole trade of the country was in their hands. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries they had fallen into disfavor, and they gradually sank into a condition of deplorable ignorance and most abject poverty. To this day the Polish Jew, in spite of admitted improvement in late years, is the meanest in Europe, one of the most wretched specimens of existing humanity. Up to the time of Nicholas, Jews were not allowed to possess land, to give evidence in civil suits, to have synagogues, or to inhabit the holy cities of Kiev and Moscow. They were obliged to wear a particular dress so that their nationality could not be mistaken, and out of every Jewish family one child was always taken by the state to be educated as a Christian at his parents' cost. Some of their disabilities have since been removed. The Jew has his synagogue, his schools, his municipal privileges, and he is allowed to celebrate the festivals of his church with public displays. But he is not yet in the enjoyment of equal rights with the native population around him. He holds no land, but he trades, and trades successfully, and it is estimated that two-thirds of the trade of the Southern states and at least one-third of that in the North is in Jewish hands.

A QUAKER'S "FRIENDLY SCUFFLE."

When Lee's graybacks were making their way through Pennsylvania toward Gettysburg two infantrymen belonging to Pickett's Virginians raided into a Quaker's house in search of something to eat. They were met at the door by the owner of the premises, who asked: "Are ye rebels?" "You bet we are!" was the blunt reply. "And what do ye wish here?" "Fodder, old man, and don't keep us waiting for it." "If thee wishest for something to eat thou canst have it," said the Quaker to the spokesman, "but I trust that ye will take nothing from the house." It was a poor trust. After the boys had finished their meal one of them pocketed a watch which was hanging on a nail, and the other seized upon a silver cream pitcher as a token of remembrance.

"Are ye thieves as well as rebellious citizens?" indignantly demanded the man as he confronted them.

"Stand aside and let us out or we'll damage you!"

"Verily, I will not! Thou must not rob my house."

"Never mind him, Bill—Quakers don't fight," called the one in the rear. "Hit him a clip on the chin and run for it."

"Truly, I shall not fight," calmly observed the disciple of Penn as he pushed up his sleeves and spit on his hands, "but if in a friendly scuffle to recover possession of mine own the robbers should get injured, I shall not have to answer to my conscience."

There was a "friendly scuffle" in the next York minute, and one of the trio, who is now a resident of Richmond, vividly remembers having the jaw-ache for a week after, while his companion complained of sore throat, dizziness, lame back and depressed spirits. All the remarks made after the scuffle commenced were simply a few words dropped by the Quaker to the effect that:

"I am sorry to put thee out, and sorry to damage thee, but it is better that thou shouldst go thy ways up the pike towards destruction."—Detroit Free Press.

ASUNDER: He escorted his sweetheart to the gallery one day, and had her picture taken. She selected the impression she liked best, and a few days afterward a dozen photos were sent home to her. When Charley called in the evening, he asked her how she was pleased with them. "Pretty well," she answered, "only they're so awfully pale; they don't show the color of my skin at all." "Oh, never mind about that," encouragingly added Charley; "I've got some yellow ochre home and will touch 'em up for you." Then a big gulf seemed to open between them, and it remains open yet.

MISSISSIPPI OVERFLOWS.

The history of the Mississippi delta is a history of repeated overflows.

Francois Xavier Martin records an extraordinary rise in 1718.

Gagarre states that in 1735 the waters were so high that many levees were broken and New Orleans was inundated.

A great flood is reported by Gov. Sargent as occurring in 1770, of which few particulars are given.

In 1782 the whole districts of Attakapas and Opelousas were inundated.

Another overflow occurred in 1785, another in 1791, others in 1796 and 1799, and in 1809; according to Gov. Sargent, the resulting devastation was so great the people imagined the Northern lakes had broken through a channel to the river.

In 1811 and in 1813 the river again broke through the levee, inundating the entire Teche country, and in 1815 "a very great flood" occurred, in which the Ohio river reached at its mouth the highest point ever recorded.

Again in 1816, 1823 and 1824 portions of the country were overflowed.

Between 1824 and 1860 seven "great" floods are recorded, respectively in 1828, 1844, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1858 and 1859. All these were marked with great destruction of property, but that of 1850 was by far the worst, the damage occasioned being immense, the St. Francis, Texas and Yazoo bottoms being entirely submerged. The principal breaks in the levee were above the Louisiana line at Bayou Macon, at Point Lookout, at Island No. 102, at New Carthage and at Rodney. The water during this overflow rose steadily until March 15, then declined slowly until early in April, then rose again until the middle of May, when they attained their highest point, and then rapidly subsided, resulting in the almost-entire destruction of the crops.

"OLD BOB AND OBJECT TEACHING."

"Object teaching" is not always successful, as the following incident, related by the Youth's Companion, will show: A gentleman calling his servant one day informed him he wished him to learn the names of books in the Bible. "Now," said he, "I will tell you the first and during the day I will ask you what it is to see if you remember; it is Genesis."

Later in the day Bob was called, but he could not remember what it was.

"Now," said the master, "I have a way to impress it upon your mind so you cannot forget it. Now, Bob, we have a horse in the stable; what do we call it?"

"Jennie."

"Correct, and we have a little girl in the kitchen, what do we call her?"

"Sis."

"Very well. Now, put the two together and you have Jennie-Sis—Genesis. I think you can remember it until to-morrow."

"Yes, sah."

The next morning Bob was summoned to appear before his master.

"Good-morning, Bob. Can you give me the name of the first book in the Bible this morning?"

"Yes, sah."

"Well, what is it?"

"De ole hoss, sah."

EXPLOSION OF A GOLD LION.

According to the North China Herald, Tso-An, the lamented Empress Regent of the flowery realm, underwent an uncommonly curious and startling experience in the pleasure garden of the palace at Peking, a short time before her death. It appears that several huge effigies of lions adorn different parts of the private grounds affected to the special use of the imperial family's female members. Two of these mimic lions, cast in pure gold, stood on either side of a shady path, her Majesty's favorite resort during the hour of pre-prandial exercise. As she was strolling up and down the walk one fine morning, attended by her ladies of honor, to her surprise and consternation one of the golden lions suddenly sprang into the air from its pedestal, and, with a tremendous roar like the report of a cannon, fell nearly at her feet, shattered to pieces. Tso-An swooned away on the spot, and was carried into the palace, where she speedily came to herself, and was found to have sustained no damage beyond a severe shock to her nerves. It was subsequently discovered that the hollow body of the lion had been filled with gunpowder, and fired by means of a wire connected with an electric battery fitted up in the private sitting-room of a subordinate palace official. This person's arrest, and the deposition subsequently obtained from him by certain ingenious methods of persuasion usually brought to bear upon criminals by the Chinese executive, led to the discovery of an elaborate court conspiracy against the life of the Empress Regent. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to add that the conspirators did not survive their accomplice's revelations for any great length of time.—London Telegraph.

The power of pleasing is founded upon the wish to please. The strength of the wish is the measure of the power.

PLEASANTRIES.

WHY are pretty girls like wild cherries? Because they make you pucker up your lips.

WHY is the discovery of the North pole like an illicit whisky manufactory? Because it is a secret still.

DR. HOLLAND wrote, "There's a song in the air." Investigation would have shown him that the air was in the song.

A CYCLO says he agrees with Longfellow that "life is not an empty dream." It is a full dream, pretty much all night-mare.

"Too much absorbed in his business," was the comment of a Western newspaper on the death of a brewer who was drowned in a tank of his own beer.

"I WANT one of those long felt hats, papa," said a pretty girl to her father. The indulgent father forked over the money, and her head now fills the long-felt want.

SCIENTISTS say the best brain food is corn meal; so, if you wish to flatter a scientist by some delicate allusion to his mental capacity, all you have to do is to call him a mush-head—then run.

MASTER TOMMY (returning from the funeral)—"Why did Uncle Jonas cry so for, aunt? He cried more than anybody!" Aunt (grimly)—"Of course! Most of the property is left to him, my dear."

"WHAT is mean time?" asks a correspondent. Going to a picnic alone and seeing your first and second-best girls with two fellows you hate, is about as nearly our idea of a mean time as pen can express.—Burdette.

SAID the night watchman, when about dusk he was invited to drink a cup of coffee: "No, thank you; coffee keeps me awake all night." Then he saw his blunder, looked very much embarrassed and tried to explain it. But it was no use.

"WHAT time is it, my dear?" asked a wife of her husband, whom she suspected of being drunk, but who was doing his best to look sober. "Well, my darling, I can't tell, 'cause, you see, there are two hands on my watch, and each points to a different figure and I don't know which to believe."

THE boys had met in the barn, the day was big to them with fate, for whether or not to "hooky" play was the subject of debate. "Twas put to vote, the Chairman's throat proclaimed, 'The ayes have it!' But a skunk came in with an extra vote and gave it to the noes.

CAPT. PERCIVAL, a Cape Cod mariner of the old school, was once awakened in his bunk by a shipmate with the announcement that the vessel was going to eternity. "Well," replied the Captain, "I've got ten friends over there to one in this world; let her go." And he turned over and went to sleep again.

MR. MALONE (to the apple-woman, who has "Sheriff's Sale" displayed on her stand—"Shure, Mrs. Maginnis, it's sorry I am for this trouble that's come upon ye." Mrs. Maginnis—"Och, well, Mr. Malone, I don't mind telling ye, seein' ye are an old frind, but it's only a little business craft to get rid av me ould stock."—Harper's Bazar.

THEY were talking about the comparative readiness of the sexes to oblige one another, when Jones employed this illustration: "A man walking along in the street finds a cigar in his pocket, but no match. He meets another man with a lighted cigar; stops him, asks for a light, gets it and goes on. Now, do you suppose one woman would do that for another?"

CONGRESSMAN S. S. COX in a lecture at Washington on the humor of the negro race, told the following story as an illustration: "While in Georgia some time ago I happened to be passing along the street. 'Hullo, Sam,' said a particularly black colored man on the other side of the street. 'Hullo!' I promptly replied, whereupon the African aforesaid promptly retorted, 'Cuse me, sah, Ise 'dressing another cullud man.'"

QUININE'S LATEST RIVAL.

The last new thing in the way of a rival to quinine comes from Spain. To the land that the Countess del Cinchon was the first to import the famous Peruvian bark, we are indebted for the new product, which is simply spiders' webs washed, dried and ground to powder. These are reported to possess many of the valuable properties of quinine. Dr. Olive, after observing 119 cases, comes to the following conclusions:

1. Spider's web taken in powder cures malarial fevers when they are of the daily or tierce character.
 2. Given in a doses of two grains to adults, and one grain to children, it cures an ordinary fever after the second attack.
 3. Its action is not so rapid as that of sulphate of quinine, and for this reason, until better informed, it should not be employed in the case of pernicious intermittent fever.
 4. The powder having no taste is more easily taken than quinine.
 5. The use of the remedy is an insurance against relapses, better than could be inferred from the indications.
- Unfortunately the doctor does not state whether the webs of all classes of spiders are efficacious.—Oil and Drug News.